

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852
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2658 02 FEB 13 2001 February 9, 2001

Re: Docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to urge a prohibition of the slaughter of downed animals for food as "downers" pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination, evidence exists that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease," and it is impossible to move downed animals humanely.

Additionally, industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Please do what needs to be done to prevent the tragedy of "downers" from continuing. It is a tragedy for all, human and bovine, that this practice has continued for this long.

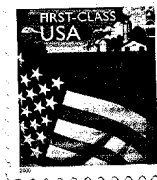
Sincerely,



Cecilie Finkelstein and John Waters

98P-0151

C4003



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